AN ACT

Amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), entitled "An act requiring the licensing of practitioners of osteopathic medicine and surgery; regulating their practice; providing for certain funds and penalties for violations and repeals," further providing for genetic counselor.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 10.3(c) of the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, is amended to read:

(c) Scope of practice.--

A genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling to clients, which includes:

(i) Obtain and evaluate individual and family medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic or medical conditions and diseases in a patient and other family members.
(ii) Discuss the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors and management of risk for the genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

(iii) Identify, order and coordinate genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment.

(iv) Integrate the genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical histories to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.

(v) Explain the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their results.

(vi) Evaluate the client's or family's responses to the condition or risk of the recurrence and provide client-centered counseling.

(vii) Identify and utilize community resources that provide medical, educational, financial and psychosocial support and advocacy.

(viii) Provide written documentation of medical, genetic and counseling information for families and health care professionals.

(2) When in the course of providing genetic counseling services to a client, if a genetic counselor finds any indication of a disease or condition that requires diagnosis and treatment outside the scope of practice defined in this section, the genetic counselor shall refer the client to a licensed physician or appropriate health care practitioner.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to
authorize a genetic counselor to diagnose[, test] or treat any genetic disease or condition or other disease or condition.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.